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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,725	02/05/2001	Timothy M. Swager	M0925/7086 (TJO)	6084

7590 06/29/2004

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EXAMINER

RILEY, JEZIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1637

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,725

Applicant(s)

SWAGER, TIMOTHY M.

Examiner

Jezia Riley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-126 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-105 and 110-126 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 106-109 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-126 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/27/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of group VIII, filed on 5/17/04, is acknowledged. No adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of no undue burden between the inventions of groups I-IV. Further the groups I-XIII represent separate invention, as shown in the previous action, as being in different classes and/or subclasses. Therefore if all the groups I-XIII were searched together it will impose a serious burden on the examiner. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 106-109 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 106 recites the limitation "wherein at least one of E and F comprises the first and second group" in line 13. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3 and 106-109 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Swager et al. (WO99/57222).

Swager et al. discloses composition comprising conductive polymer capable of emitting radiation and exhibiting increased luminescent lifetimes and quantum yields. These compositions can be tailored to prevent π -stacking or interactions with acceptor species that quench the luminescence. The reference provides an article comprising a polymer having an energy migration pathway, and a chromophore. It comprises a chromophore in electronic communication with the energy migration pathway where the chromophore is capable of emitting an enhanced radiation. The polymer has a structure identical to the instant invention. (see summary of the invention and claims 48-51).

The rejection can be overcome by submission of a specific declaration by the applicant establishing that the article is describing applicant's own work. In re Katz, 687 F.2d 450, 215 USPQ 14 (CCPA 1982).

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swager et al. (WO 95/16681).

Swager et al. discloses compositions for the fabrication of chemical sensing devices. Polythiophene derivatives which are viewed as the conducting polymer are used for such device. Said polymer is disposed upon an insulating substrate which bears on its surface at least two contacts that are electrical communication with one another. (Summary of the invention, pages 9-10 and Figure 2).

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swager et al. (US6,323,309).

The applied reference has a common assignee and one inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Swager et al. a polymeric structure comprising a first component of a plurality of organic units and a second component comprising a plurality of metal ions. The polymeric structure may contain one or more conductive pathways, at least one conductive pathway comprising the first and second components and it least some of the metal ions of the second component positioned no more than three chemical bonds

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from any of the conductive pathways. The organic units preferably include multiply unsaturated units in electronic communication with each other.

8. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Epstein et al. (US 4,841,099).

Epstein discloses an electrical component made from an electrically insulating polymer matrix filled with electrically insulating fibrous filler which is capable of heat conversion to electrically conducting fibrous filler and has at least one continuous electrically conductive path formed in the matrix by the in situ heat conversion of the electrically insulating fibrous filler. In a preferred embodiment, the fibrous filler is thermally stabilized polyacrylonitrile fibers and the conductive path is formed by in situ heat converted thermally stabilized polyacrylonitrile fibers which have been converted by directing a laser beam through a mask having a predetermined pattern to melt the polymer and to heat convert the thermally stabilized polyacrylonitrile fibers. (abstract)


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 571-272-0786. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thursday, June 24, 2004



JEZIA RILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER